The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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VOL. 5, NO. 9 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1915. WHOLE NO. 217

GRANITE MEN RAISE WAGES

Increase, After Next March, Totals Ten Per Cent.

WORKING CONDITIONS IMPROVED

Trade Union Methods Will Result in a Decrease of White Plague Victims.

Quincy, Mass., May 29.—After a suspension of eleven weeks' work in the granite belt of Vermont, involving 3,500 members of the Granite Cutters' International association and 1,000 other workmen, all differences have been adjusted and these workers are again at work, with substantial wage increases and a general betterment of working conditions.

The suspension continued after the general terms of a new agreement had been accepted by both sides. This was caused by trade technicalities and contentions over methods among members of the Granite association. The members calling themselves the Latin nations, principally southern Italians, disagreed with the views of the English-speaking membership, principally through the former favoring so-called "revolutionary" tactics and the latter favoring the established collective agreement plan. These disagreements were finally adjusted and the trade union idea prevailed.

International President James Duncan of the Granite Cutters' association, with offices in this city, made this statement regarding the gains made:

"The result of the long contention gives the workmen practically five cents an hour increase in wages for this year with an additional five cents per hour increase beginning with the first of next March. This means that on and after March 1, 1916, a $4 minimum rate will prevail, with the wages of those previously receiving above the minimum correspondingly increased. The new agreement also provides for improved sanitary conditions, such as drinking water properly cooled and to be furnished through 'bubblers,' water closets to be kept clean and sanitary, and the use of a number of machines to be discontinued, the operation of which was found to be very unhealthy in causing fine dust, resulting in increased deaths by consumption. The percentage of deaths by this disease will be greatly reduced with our new agreement in force."

JOHN D., JR., ON THE STAND.

Washington, May 29.—The following colloquy between Chairman Walsh of the industrial relations commission and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., indicates the latter's shifting, evading policy while on the stand:

Walsh—Do you know that this is the troop that not only shot into the camp at Ludlow but looted the bodies and set fire with the torch?

Rockefeller—That's the report.

Walsh—Do you uphold these acts?

Rockefeller—I don't uphold any acts of violence.

Walsh—Yet, you say you uphold every act of your executives, and your executives employed these gunmen. Don't you feel a moral responsibility for those actions?

Rockefeller—I would feel a greater moral responsibility if the executive officers had not done everything in their power to preserve life and property.

The troop referred to was Troop A, consisting of mine managers, store company managers and mine guards. Vice President Bowers wired Rockefeller, Jr., five days before Ludlow, that this company had been formed.

FILIPINOS FOR HAWAII.

Washington, May 29.—Writing to the United States department of commerce, J. F. Boomer tells of these conditions in Hawaii:

"The Hawaiian employers of Filipino labor have met the law that was expected to discourage the exportation of labor from the islands by complying with its most onerous demands. The Philippine representative of the Hawaiian employers of labor has deposited with the local bureau of labor the $3,000 required by the new law to enable any one to recruit labor within the islands for employment abroad. This representative has also given notice that he intends to recruit laborers in the provinces of Cebu, Romblon, La Union, Ilocos Norte, and Ilocos Sur, in each of which he will be required to pay an additional $250 in order to operate. The charges imposed were intended to provide a fund for the salary of a government inspector of conditions under which Filipino labor lives abroad."

NEW LABOR LAWS.

Sacramento, Cal., May 29.—The recent state legislature passed several measures beneficial to the workers, among them being:

A better compensation law, removal of the "property qualifications" of jurors; strengthening the free state employment bureau and the university extension work that the state university may be brought into the homes of workers; improved the child labor law; semi-monthly pay day law for certain industries; improved labor camp inspection law; providing for the prompt payment of wages; state supervision of tenement and lodging-houses inspection; creating the office of "public defender;" improved law prohibiting non-negotiable paper for wages; greater protection for union labels; regulating the practice of deducting wages for "hospital service;" regulating private detective agencies; an anti-usury law.

STREET CAR MEN ASK MORE.

Toronto, Ontario, May 29.—Local street car men have prepared a new wage scale to succeed the one expiring June 16. The rates for motormen and conductors are: 24 cents the first year, 26 cents the second year and 28 cents thereafter. Sunday work, 4 cents in excess of week day rates. Seniority is provided for. The company is asked to pay one-half of the price for uniforms for one-year men, and to supply free uniforms thereafter. The workers will accept provisions to be made by the company for the purpose of protecting itself in this matter from employes leaving the service.

TRY DEPUTIES FOR MURDER.

New Brunswick, N. J., May 29.—Ten strike deputies are on trial here, charged with murder in connection with the Roosevelt chemical works strike last January. The deputies fired on strikers, killing two and wounding nearly a score of others. There are sixteen other deputies under similar indictments. They will be tried later. The strike was caused by an attempt to reduce wages. The workers were unorganized, but later formed a union and were chartered by the American Federation of Labor, whose organizers assisted them in winning a victory.

UNION'S EXPENSES SMALL

Chicago, May 29.—The alleged "large sums of money" workers are forced to contribute for the maintenance of their trades unions is always a sweet morsel for opponents of organized labor, despite the repeated claim by unionists that practically all moneys revert to the workers in the form of benefits.

President Perkins of the Cigarmakers' International union is the latest to call attention to this fact in the following letter to one of his assistants:

"Replying to your letter in which you request the figures on which the cost per member per annum for the running expense of the international office is based, I have to say the actual expense of the international union for the year 1914 for all purposes, was [illegible], which amounts to a trifle over [illegible] per member per annum. This includes the expenditures for rent of office, salary of president, and all assistants in the office, salaries and traveling expenses of organizers and financiers, printing the monthly journal and all costs in connection therewith, printing the union label and cost of the paper; [illegible] inted matter, such as monthly rep[illegible] blanks, books, dues books and ledgers, stationery, amendment circulars, strike application circulars, all circulars to local unions, due books, constitutions, order blanks, out of work cards, sick report cards, furniture, lighting, per capita tax to the American Federation of Labor and the Union Label Trades Department, salary and expense of delegates to the American Federation of Labor convention, salary and expense of auditors, expressage on supplies; postage on letters and supplies, lawyers' fees and all items of expense.

"The cost of printing the official journal and the union labels, which are constitutional requirements, constitutes almost one-fourth of the entire expense.

"The amount required for all salaries, including the president, clerks in the office, organizers and financiers and their expenses is less than one cent per member per week."

UNIONIST QUITS LAW BODY.

Washington, May 29.—President Gompers has resigned from the American Association for Labor Legislation because of that organization's activity in securing the passage of the Spring bill in the New York legislature, which abolished the state department of labor and placed it, together with the workmen's compensation commission, in control of the newly-created industrial commission.

In his letter to the association's officers President Gompers says the action of the association has weakened the effectiveness of both departments and that the influence of the association was used "to fasten upon the workers policies which they had emphatically opposed."

The unionist declares that "the wage-earners welcome counsel and aid, but they deny the right of any one or any group of individuals to dictate measures which vitally concern the industrial welfare of the workers. * * * The wage-earners of the United States deny the right of any man or any association to despotism, whether political, industrial, or intellectual. We are endeavoring to achieve our freedom and cannot co-operate with those whose aim is despotism, even for a benevolent purpose."

President Gompers notified the New York Central Federated Union that he indorsed their action in asking all members of organized labor to withdraw from all co-operation and affiliation with the American Association for Labor Legislation.

HOUSING BILL PRAISED.

Philadelphia, May 29.—Secretary Newman of the housing commission praises the bill passed by the legislature intended to eliminate differences between the commission and the common council regarding appropriations and the use of funds. The secretary, in his report, said that drastic methods of improving living conditions among the poor have been taken the last year by the commission, in the face of "indifference and inability of the city to deal with the problem." It was discovered, he said, that many owners who declared they could not improve their tenants' homes were themselves living in homes assessed at upward of $25,000. The new code, he believed, will remove one of the great evils of the foreign section, room crowding; will put an end to cellar dwellings and will compel property owners to install water supply and toilet facilities.

TO REDUCE NIGHT LABOR.

Chicago, May 29.—Six hours or less for night work, at $3 per night, is one of the demands of Street Car Men's union, No. 241, on the Chicago surface lines. The contract now in force expires May 31. A wage rate of 33 cents per hour for the first year and 36 cents thereafter is asked. Week day hours shall be no more than eleven nor less than nine. Waiting time while in charge of baseball extras, trolley parties, etc., shall be paid for, and Sunday work shall be straight time, and not exceed eight hours.

MINERS' WAGE SCALE SIGNED.

Cleveland, May 29.—The wage scale agreed to by eastern Ohio operators and indorsed by their miners, in convention at Wheeling, has been signed by representatives of both parties. This ends the 13-months' strike, caused by an attempt to reduce wages. This victory of the United Mine Workers' union is one of the most notable in its history because of a lack of violence. The operators imported no strikebreakers or mine guards to terrorize the strike zone.

SAFETY IN MINES.

Washington, May 29.—The federal bureau of mines is investigating the question of explosion-proof motors for use in mines where an electric spark or flash might ignite inflammable gases or dust. A technical paper—No. 101—just issued, mentions the details of construction that the bureau considers essential for satisfactory service, and describes tests of an explosion-proof mining machine motor and accessories approved by the bureau.

PLUMBERS SURE OF VICTORY.

Sioux City, Iowa, May 29.—Plumbers and steam fitters of this city, striking for a wage increase of 50 cents a day, are confident of victory. Several conferences have been held and the unionists declare that prospects for a settlement are bright.

BROOM MAKERS RAISE WAGES.

Sioux City, Iowa, May 29.—The Broom Makers' union has raised wages 20 cents a day for all day workers. Every shop in the city has signed the union scale.

ROCKEFELLER, JR., GRILLED FOR HOURS; SHOWN TO BE REAL COLORADO POWER

Washington, May 29.—Lawyers have cross-examined John D. Rockefeller, Jr., before, but he was never given the grilling he received last week at the hands of Chairman Walsh of the United States industrial relations commission.

For two days this federal prober used every weapon known to a resourceful lawyer in an effort to force from an unwilling witness his knowledge of facts, and his connection with, the recent Colorado strike. The popular conception of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., with offices at 26 Broadway, New York City, was dispelled. Here he was on the defensive, pleading "for the same rights accorded other witnesses," and charging his opponent with "unfairness." Though skillful in his evasions, he failed to avoid the numerous traps of Chairman Walsh. This was shown when the latter produced a letter written by L. M. Bowers, chairman executive board, Colorado Fuel and Iron company, to Rockefeller, Jr., in which the writer stated that Starr Murphy had been elected a director, but if unsatisfactory to Rockefeller, it would be changed. When the witness was asked if he had power to reverse this decision, he scented danger and began to dodge. After the chairman ordered him to "give a direct 'yes' or 'no' answer," Rockefeller said "yes." Around this confession that Fuel and Iron company directors were merely dummies, the chairman wove his net of Rockefeller responsibility.

It was not only shown that Rockefeller had sole power to change Fuel and Iron company officials, but these facts were also brought out.

That Rockefeller notified these officers he would back them to the limit.

That no violence was committed until Troop A was formed.

That the members of this troop did not wait until they were properly enrolled in the state militia, but "shot up" Ludlow a few days after they were organized.

That these men were on the pay roll of the company continuously.

That Rockefeller, Jr., was in constant communication with Coal and Fuel company officials, despite former statements that he knew nothing of the strike.

That he furnished money to his publicity agent (Ivy Lee) to prepare and have printed bulletins favoring the operators.

That these bulletins were sent to influential people all over the country for the purpose of molding public opinion against the strikers.

That the bulletins were printed and addressed in Philadelphia and then shipped to Denver, whence they were mailed, to create the opinion that the mine operators were behind the publication.

The evidence showed the inside workings of dummy directorship and absentee landlordism. No move was made by the mine managers until O. K.'d in New York. Rockefeller, Sr., kept close track of affairs, and indorsed the various anti-union moves. This was shown in a letter from Rockefeller, Jr., to Vice President Bowers: "I know that father has followed the events of the past few months in connection with the Fuel company with unusual interest and satisfaction."

This indorsement of murder and loot caused Chairman Walsh to passionately declare:

"So your father was pleased when 5,000 men and their families went into the canyons to live rather than to continue to work under existing conditions in the mining camp when armed gunmen were sent to attack them, and when the Forbes tent colony had been riddled by a machine gun."

The witness, as would be expected, has no democratic ideals. Chairman Walsh referred to a speech made by Ivy Lee in which Rockefeller's publicity agent said: "We must be very careful of the terms we allow to be lodged in the public mind."

"Very sound philosophy," was the witness' comment on this statement.

Rockefeller refused to comment on the conviction of John Lawson. He was asked if he would do anything, now that it is discovered one of the Lawson jurors has the sole privilege of selling a biscuit company's product in the mining camps.

"I can't say," was the answer.

At the next sitting of the commission Rockefeller read a statement in which he referred to the Lawson queries and said, in effect, that he did not want to be put in a position of trying to dictate to Colorado authorities. The witness tried to create the impression that he, a lone, solitary citizen of the state of New York, should not interfere with the workings of Colorado's duly constituted legal machinery. Rockefeller refused to tell who wrote this statement, and later, Ivy Lee declined to answer the same question.

The witness said he had not read the testimony brought out at Ludlow. When asked if he did not deem it his duty to do so, that he might know the facts, Rockefeller replied that he had confidence in his executives.

"Yes," declared Walsh, in his most biting tone, "you only take their word. You close your eyes to the crimes at Ludlow and the evidence of the coroner's inquest. You close your eyes to the other outrages. You sit in your offices in New York and say, 'I uphold these executives.'"

POOR WAGES; INFANTS DIE

Washington, May 29.—In a report issued by the department of labor it is shown that the infant mortality rate is higher among children of the poor than those more comfortably situated. Montclair, N. J., a residential suburb of New York city, was investigated by department officials. "Montclair," the report says, is "distinguished for its comfortable homes and attractive climate and location."

In a ward where the most favorable conditions for living exist, the death rate for babies was 39 per 1,000. In ward 4, where 50 of the 113 tenements of the city are found, the rate was 130. Here was found the most congested housing conditions in the city. The report shows that the death rate varied with the income. Among families where the income was less than $12 a week the rate was more than twice as high as among families where the income was $23 or more.

The father's occupation gave some indication of the trend of the infant mortality rate. Where fathers were professional or business men the rate was 41. In the skilled trades group, it rose to 74, while among babies whose fathers were engaged in semi-skilled trades, unskilled trades, and domestic service, the rate was 101—more than double the rate for professional men.

It is pointed out that all the figures quoted are too small to furnish a basis for hard and fast conclusions, but they bear out the results of similar investigations on a larger scale elsewhere.

CRITICS IN OFFICE AND OUT.

Vancouver, B. C., May 29.—The British Columbia Federationist, official newspaper of the local Trades and Labor Council, gives this advice under the caption, "Critics in Office and Out:"

"In its way, nothing is more interesting than to watch the evolution of the union-member critic. As long as he is free from the responsibilities of executive office he is often ultra-vigorous in his methods. But his test comes when he is given a chance to put some of his ideas into practice by being elected to a position of trust and responsibility. He then finds that the quantity which determines his ability to turn his plans into practical results, is not just simply his own enthusiasm, but the spirit of the membership in general of his union.

"That is what accounts for the fact that many a man, as an irresponsible critic, looks like a go-ahead, but as a responsible officer of his union seems to be over-cautious and almost conservative as compared with his former self. All the same, the true test of a critic is to give him some executive work with the responsibility attached to it. If he has any practical ability in him, that will fetch it out. Incidentally it will discover that some people who seem to believe they could conduct the entire cosmic scheme, have not enough executive capacity to run a chicken pen."

CITY RECOGNIZES UNIONS.

Canton, O., May 29.—The city council, by a unanimous vote, has ordered that hereafter only members of organized labor can be employed on work done by or for the city of Canton.

In urging the adoption of this resolution, unionists insisted that: "Contractors figure on the basis of the prevailing union wage, and inasmuch as the laboring men carry the burden of maintaining those wages, they are entitled to any money the city may spend on public works, and that through their labor unions they maintain the rate contractors accept, even though the contractors refuse to recognize the union."

ARBITRATE WAGE DEMAND.

Worcester, Mass., May 29.—At a conference with the state board of arbitration, coal dealers in this city declined to act collectively on the question of the wage demands of their workers, preferring to act with their employes or a committee representing the union. The Coal Teamsters' union has been conducting a vigorous organizing campaign and declare they are now in a position to enforce their demands.

ICE HANDLERS RECOGNIZED

Cincinnati Unionists Prove Value of Organization.

IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS.

City Officials Managed Ice Plants Two Years Ago, but This Brought No Relief.

Cincinnati, O., May 29.—The Ice Wagon Drivers and Handlers' union has won a splendid victory in this city after continued negotiations that reached the strike point on several occasions, because the employers insisted on the non-union shop. Wage increases were readily agreed to by these employers who promised no discrimination, if the non-union shop was accepted. The workers, however, declined. By an almost unanimous vote it was agreed to cease work, but this was avoided by the employers accepting the following:

"Members of the union shall be employed. In case it is impossible to find union men the employer has the privilege of employing a non-union man, but he must instruct the individual to become a member of the union inside of ten days."

General President Tobin of the Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs assisted in the negotiations and is elated over the outcome. He said:

"This is indeed a real victory for our organization, when it will be remembered that two years ago, when those drivers first organized, we had a long strike that lasted about four months and which caused a lot of suffering for the people of Cincinnati during the hot weather because they could get no ice. This is the case where the mayor of Cincinnati at that time did something that never happened before in the history of any city, and who, by order of the city common council, took over the ice plants and operated them, distributing ice to all who came and bought it. The employers at that time refused to recognize our union or even grant us a conference. After striking four months, the men went back to work, many of them without being allowed to wear the emblem of our organization, our union button. Since then we have been slowly organizing and when we presented our contract this year we had almost a perfect organization. The employers, realizing the foolishness of their fight two years ago, understanding the amount of money they lost, together with the loss of public opinion, this year thought it best to avoid a conflict, although they told us right up to the last minute that they would never sign a contract calling for a strictly union shop."

HATTERS REFUSE TO PAY BIG JUDGMENT.

New York, May 29.—The Hatters' union will not pay the judgment of $255,000 secured by Loewe & Co., Danbury hat manufacturers, and recently indorsed by the United States supreme court.

This decision was reached by the United Hatters of North America in convention, last week.

The unionists voted, however, to raise a fund for the relief of the individuals whose homes and bank accounts have been attached under the judgment.

This resolution adopted declares:

"The United Hatters of North America deny the statements of D. E. Loewe & Co., and the attorneys for the Anti-Boycott society that this organization has agreed to pay the judgment in this case and hereby declares it to be our purpose not to apply any funds to the satisfaction of this judgment.

"But this organization pledges its assistance to the members affected by said judgment and resolves further that an assessment of one per centum on the dollar of the weekly earnings of the members of this organization on and after July 1, be assessed and the money realized shall constitute a fund to be used by the officers of this organization for the relief and benefit of members affected by said judgment."

EVILS OF INJUNCTION SHOWN

Springfield, Ill., May 29.—Trades unionists in this state are urging the legislature to pass laws limiting the issuance of injunctions in times of strike. Opponents present the old argument that this would "legalize violence," in their defense of injunction rule and deny that trial by jury is a constitutional guarantee in these cases. Officers of the state federation of labor make reply as follows:

"The law provides specific methods of accusation, arrest and trial and surrounds even the meanest criminal with certain rights found necessary to the administration of justice. The injunction is used to take these rights away from the working people on strike and in that respect it is contrary to law. The law breaker is the judge who issues it, not the defendant against whom it is issued.

"It is claimed in justification of this method of breaking strikes that the strikers sometimes resort to threats, and even to violence, in an effort to gain their point, and that it is therefore necessary for an injunction judge to be brought into the case to place them under the restraint of his commands. The judge who takes that position sets himself above the law. Violence is a crime, defined by statute law and no court has a right to try any citizen for that crime except as provided by law.

"Threats are also covered by statute law and are referred to in injunction writs merely for the purpose of masking the true reason for the issuance of such writs. If, however, there is any place in the United States where the law covering intimidation and threats is not sufficient to provide for the protection of the citizens, that place is certainly not the state of Illinois. The statutes of this state are exceptionally drastic on this subject."

WOULD USE SECOND-HAND WRIT.

Minneapolis, May 29.—"No doubt a new injunction would have cost more money than the old one and it is a pretty good evidence of the way the battle is going when a contractor uses a twelve-year injunction instead of obtaining a new one."

The above is what the Labor Review thinks of the attempt to enjoin striking electrical workers with a court writ issued in 1903. The unionists are demanding an increase of 6¼ cents an hour, or $4.50 a day for eight hours work. Their officials say the strike is won. Out of nearly 300 members there are less than thirty on the strike rolls.

NAME INDUSTRIAL BOARD.

Denver, Col., May 29.—Governor Carlson has appointed the three members on the state industrial relations commission, created by the last legislature. The appointees are an insurance agent, a lawyer and a manager of an iron foundry. This commission will enforce the workmen's compensation law, which takes effect August 1. The commission was created on the theory that it would assist in solving Colorado's economic injustices. The consideration of industrial disputes is one of the board's principal duties. Unionists failed in their attempt to secure representation.

INCREASE BREWERS' WAGES.

Kansas City, Mo., May 29.—Workers in breweries and their employers have signed a three-year agreement. Malsters, brewers, beer bottlers and beer drivers will receive increases of $1 a week for two years and $1.50 the third year. Hours for drivers have been placed at ten per day instead of the unlimited work day that was formerly the rule. Engineers are given the same wage increase and electricians the wage paid by outside contractors. The rates of firemen and coopers are also advanced.

TEAMSTERS RETURN TO WORK.

Canton, O., May 29.—After a two days' strike employing teamsters agreed to sign the new wage scale of their employes.

The carpenters are insisting that their demand for a minimum rate of 45 cents an hour be agreed to. These workers are still on strike, as are the plumbers who demand higher wages.

SAYS LAWSON WAS WRONGED

San Francisco, May 29.—Under the caption, "Real Colorado Justice," Editor James Barry of the Weekly Star discusses the Lawson verdict in the following vigorous manner:

"This week a Colorado jury sitting at Trinidad condemned John R. Lawson to spend the remainder of his life at hard labor in the Colorado penitentiary. It was a great Rockefeller victory, and will brighten the halo of glory and piety that plays about the Rockefeller heads. Lawson is a labor leader, and was found guilty of murder in the first degree in connection with the death of John Nimmo, a deputy sheriff who was killed in a battle with the strikers in October, 1913. Not that Lawson actually killed Nimmo; no, but he was the leader of the strikers. Nimmo was killed in one of the Ludlow fights, being one of the deputies stationed at the Ludlow section house. Those deputies got into a fight with a number of strikers, and during the fight Nimmo was shot through the leg and bled to death. Lawson was charged with the killing of Nimmo on the theory that he was in charge of the tent colony and in command of the strikers.

"The information upon which Lawson was tried was filed by the attorney general of Colorado, who conveniently forgot or neglected to file other information against the state militia for the wholesale murders at Ludlow, and against the Rockefellers and other mine owners, who were responsible for the whole business. The authority of the state of Colorado was given to the mine owners—including the Rockefellers—and they used that authority ruthlessly and savagely.

"If Lawson spends the remainder of his life in prison at hard labor, is it just that John D. Rockefeller and his aides should be at liberty? And what answer will the state of Colorado make when it is charged, as it will be charged, that a laboring man cannot get justice in that state? It is mere mockery to ask workingmen to obey the law and to respect the law and the courts, when juries owned by special privilege bring in such verdicts as the one in the Lawson case."

REJECT COMPROMISE.

Chicago, May 29.—The various Carpenters' unions of this city have concluded their referendum on the employers' compromise wage scale and have rejected same by an almost unanimous vote. These workers asked for a five-cent increase. A compromise offer of 2½ cents, together with other demands of the employers, was rejected by the unions' officials, who said it was not necessary to submit them to a referendum. A strike followed and the employers, backed by certain newspapers, raised a hue and cry against the officials, who then stated if the compromise was resubmitted they would present same to the membership.

This was done, with the result as above stated.

National Organizer Lakey of the Brotherhood of Carpenters is quoted as saying that if the employers' offer "had been $1 an hour it would have been defeated just as unanimously." One section objected to by the unionists provided that a representative of the employers shall spend Saturday morning in the office of the Carpenters' district council. At this time the council transacts its important business, and the workers show that under this clause a private detective would have to be admitted. Another clause provided for a system of registration in the employers' offices which would net $50,000 a year—a tidy sum, the workers say, to use against them in case of strike.

ESTIMATE OF LEGISLATORS.

San Francisco, May 29.—The legislative committee of the state federation of labor has published the record of members of the last legislature, which passed several admirable laws, despite opposition of reaction, which is illustrated by the following pen pictures and estimates of several lawmakers:

"Is somewhat behind the times and will probably never catch up. A sort of neutral force that will do more harm than good—most of the time.

"Wears a '10' hat for a '6 1-2' head, and is going from bad to worse in estimating his own importance. Seldom with labor.

"A physician and surgeon who tries to make believe that cement dust is good to eat. (This legislator opposed a law providing for dust-proof cement bags).

"Cannot sleep at night for fear that some horrid bill will slip through the senate and 'drive the industries from his district.'

"Champion handshaker of the assembly. A good man, but out of place.

"Never on the floor; rarely speaks * * * Was mostly concerned with the apple.

"Represents the peacock type of legislator. * * * Rather useless ornament in the assembly from labor's point of view."

APPOINT MITCHELL AND LYNCH.

Albany, N. Y., May 29.—Governor Whitman has appointed the five members of the new industrial commission, which will take over the work of the state labor bureau and the workmen's compensation commission. John Mitchell, ex-president of the United Mine Workers' union and member of the compensation commission, is chairman of the new board. James M. Lynch, former state labor commissioner and ex-president of the International Typographical union, is the other appointee from organized labor. The salary for these positions is $8,000 a year.

COAL MINERS TO HEAR GOMPERS

Marion, Ill., May 29.—President Gompers has accepted an invitation of trade unionists to speak in this city Labor Day under the auspices of the Williamson and Jackson County Labor Day association. The organized bituminous miners in this section are already arranging to visit Marion at this time.

TO ENFORCE EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Canton, O., May 29.—The Central Labor Union has instructed its officials to watch the new eight-hour law, which goes into effect July 1. The act provides for the shorter work day on all city contracts and unionists will oppose any effort to evade the measure.

WANT A NINE-HOUR DAY.

Detroit, May 29.—The Metal Polishers' union has struck several jobbing shops in this city to enforce a nine-hour day. Many employers have granted the demand, which calls for 49½ hours a week.

ASK SATURDAY HALF HOLIDAY.

San Francisco, May 29.—Machinists' union has notified employers that beginning with the month of June, the Saturday half holiday will be enforced.

UNIONISTS WIN LONG FIGHT

Pennsylvania Compensation Law Is Finally Passed.

AGITATION ROUTS LOBBYISTS.

New Law Is Elective—People Will Vote on Compulsory Constitutional Amendment.

Harrisburg, Pa., May 29.—A workmen's compensation act was passed in the closing hours of the state legislature, again proving organized labor's claim that constant agitation will bring success. For years the trade union movement has demanded this legislation, which has been resisted by the mining, railroad and other corporations. The defeat of these forces was complete and the bill, together with supplemental measures, were passed unanimously by the senate, as opponents realized the folly of further opposition and recorded themselves as "friends of labor." The legislation was quickly concurred in by the house, where it had to be passed upon the second time because of slight amendments.

As an additional notification to corporation lobbyists that the people's voice was heard, the senate approved a conference committee report on the Catlin bill to bring anthracite miners under the compensation system. This bill was fought by coal operators, who insisted that because the state issued certificates to mine foremen they were relieved of any obligation.

The workmen's compensation bills are seven in number. One is the general measure covering the subject of workmen's compensation, one provides for its administration, one creates a state insurance fund, two relate to liability and mutual insurance, one exempts domestic servants and agricultural workers and the seventh is the constitutional amendment permitting a compulsory compensation law, as the present proposed law is elective. The main bill provides that the act shall apply to all accidents occurring within the state, irrespective of the place where the contract of hiring was made.

Compensation for total disability shall not exceed $4,000, to be paid during the first 500 weeks after the fourteenth day at a rate of not more than $10 a week nor less than $5 a week.

Partial disability payments shall be on the basis of 50 per cent, to run not longer than 300 weeks. Payments shall not exceed $10 a week. Compensation to alien dependent widows and children not residents of the United States shall be two-thirds of the amount provided in each case for residents.

MINERS WIN BIG VICTORY.

Harrisburg, Pa., May 29.—Organized anthracite miners in this state have won one of their most important victories by the passage of the Catlin bill in the state legislature. The act is designed to bring these workers under the provisions of the recently enacted workmen's compensation law. Courts have ruled that coal companies are not responsible for the acts of mine foremen, who are held to be agents of the state because the state authorities issue certificates to the foremen. Therefore, rule the courts, the companies do not have the right of free selection. The Catlin bill shifts the responsibility from the state to the owners, as follows:

"The mine foreman, assistant mine foreman, fire boss and any person placed in charge of the pumps or any part thereof, shall be the agent of the owners and operators and such owners and operators shall employ them and discharge them at will."

Another provision permits representatives of the families of victims of mine accidents to examine witnesses at coroners' inquests. They are denied this privilege under the present law.

ELMIRA MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Elmira, N. Y., May 29.—Machinists on strike against the American La France Fire Engine company of this city are being given the moral support of trade unionists in various localities who are calling attention to their municipal officers of the refusal of this company to increase wages.

The strikers asked for an increase of 25 cents a day and time and one-half for overtime. The rate prevailing in other factories, doing similar work, is much higher than the scale at the La France company. Every effort was made by the men and representatives of the International Association of Machinists to adjust differences. The state labor department also failed in its conciliatory efforts. The company gave the men no opportunity for compromise and as a result about 170 machinists and seven boiler makers walked out on May 5. The company manufactures fire apparatus used by various cities throughout the country.

ADVICE TO NON-UNIONISTS.

Worcester, Mass., May 29.—At an open meeting of iron molders in this city, President Valentine of the International Molders' union said:

"If no organization of molders existed, the men employed at the trade would be working from ten to fourteen hours a day and undoubtedly for as little as $10 to $12 a week. Those who have joined the union and have remained loyal have reaped the benefits. While many molders outside the organization have enjoyed conditions similar to those received by union men, it must be remembered that this was made possible through the efforts of the union, and that it is the wrong principle to accept these conditions without doing something in return. The only thing asked of you is that you become one of us and do your share toward maintaining an organization that is responsible for your present conditions."

ANTI-LABOR BILL DEFEATED.

Columbus, O., May 29.—The Archer bill, favored by the Ohio Manufacturers' association and condemned by the trade union movement, has been finally defeated, as far as the present legislature is concerned, by a vote that surprised both friend and foe. The last attempt to revive it was favored by only 28 legislators out of a total vote of 81. The bill intended giving wide powers to the state industrial commission to fix hours of labor and working conditions in industries. Unionists resented this attempt to regulate their affairs by law and the entire state movement made protest.

BAKERS BETTER CONDITIONS.

Oakland, Cal., May 29.—Bakers' union of this city has secured a new agreement which shortens the work week two hours, and raises wages as high as $4 per week in certain departments.